Ministry of Education

Plan for 2016-17

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable
Don Morgan, Q.C.

Minister of Education

I am pleased to present my Ministry's plan for 2016-17. The Government's Direction and Budget for 2016-17 are built on the fundamental principles of *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*, by maintaining a continued focus on sound economic growth and strong fiscal management. In this plan, we identify how the Ministry of Education aligns with this direction and supports the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*.

Government Direction and Budget for 2016-17 invests in people and infrastructure to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*, and initiates a government wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services that are delivered in the most effective and efficient way possible.

From early years to graduation, the path to student success needs to be personalized for each student. Student First is an approach that will help the education sector meet the targets identified in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*. It is not a new initiative, but rather an approach that puts the student front and centre where, as an education sector, we ask every day, in everything we do: *"What difference does it make for the student?"* and *"How can we work together to achieve this?"*

The development and application of the *Education Sector Strategic Plan 2014-2020/21* brings coherence and alignment to the priorities of the Government, the Ministry, the sector and the classroom.

The Ministry will report on the progress made towards the Plan for 2016-17, within the financial parameters provided, in the Ministry's Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to building on Saskatchewan's foundational strengths, investing in needed infrastructure and in vital programs and services for the people of our province. The Government has made a simple yet significant commitment – to *Keep Saskatchewan Strong*. This year marks the beginning of a government-wide exercise of transformational change to ensure the sustainability of high quality public services delivered in the most effective, efficient way possible.

This focus will advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2016-17 annual reports.

The *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond* provides the enabling strategies and actions that the Government of Saskatchewan will undertake to build a strong and growing Saskatchewan. The 2016-17 budget theme of *Keep Saskatchewan Strong* reflects the Government's commitment to achieving the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*.

The enduring strategies, actions and measures included in the *Education Sector Strategic Plan* are aligned with the Government goals of *Meeting the challenges of growth, Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people*, and *Delivering responsive and responsible government*.

The Ministry is committed to improving the learning success and well-being of all Saskatchewan children and youth, and the enhancement of literacy for all Saskatchewan people.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Education provides leadership and direction to the early years, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. The Ministry supports the sectors through funding, governance and accountability, with a focus on improving student achievement.

The Ministry is committed to improving the learning success and well-being of all Saskatchewan children and youth, and the enhancement of literacy for all Saskatchewan people.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Education provides strategic, innovative, and collaborative leadership to the early years, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. It promotes higher student achievement and well-being for Saskatchewan children and youth and improved literacy skills for all, as a foundation of the province's social and economic growth.

Strategic Priorities for Saskatchewan's Early Years, Library, Literacy and Prekindergarten to Grade 12 Education Sectors

This 2016-17 plan demonstrates the continued efforts of the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 education sector to further implement a sector-wide strategic planning approach adopted in 2013. This process involves staff from all levels of participating organizations in identifying a few annual key priorities for the sector, using provincial and local data as a guide for decision-making. The intention is to focus on and finish the work in these key areas as a foundation to achieving the longer-term outcomes in future years.

Education sector priorities identified in this plan also reflect a commitment to achieving targets laid out in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*.

Every two years the sector plan is reviewed and refreshed so that the work to be done is based on results being achieved locally and provincially and reflects the current environment in which the sector operates. As a result of this review, some long-term outcomes and improvement targets that were identified in the 2014-20 plan have been confirmed, and some revised for 2016-17.

In the summer of 2013, the Ministry introduced a Student First approach to unify and re-orient the entire education sector to focus on what matters most – the student. The goal is to ensure that all students in Saskatchewan, in every corner of the province, have the education and skills to succeed when they graduate from high school. This approach also reflects a commitment to achieving education targets outlined in the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*. The findings from the Student First engagement process in 2014 continue to drive the work and decisions of the education sector.

The library and literacy sectors play a key role in contributing to the development of Saskatchewan residents' literacy skills, as well as supporting lifelong learning and student success. Moving forward, public libraries and literacy organizations are capitalizing on province-wide cooperation which has put Saskatchewan learners at the forefront. This is accomplished through initiatives such as the Saskatchewan Single Integrated Library System, the Saskatchewan public library One Card, universal interlibrary loan, summer reading programs and the Saskatchewan Community Literacy Fund.

The early years, from prenatal to age eight, also strongly influence lifelong learning and student success. Responsibility for the early years falls across human services ministries, with the Ministry of Education taking the lead in supporting programming for Prekindergarten, child care, and the KidsFirst and Early Childhood Intervention Program home visiting programs. Key partners in the delivery of programming are health regions, school divisions, the early learning and child care sector, community based organizations, and First Nations and Métis organizations.

In May 2016, government will release *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016 to 2020* to provide strategic direction for work across sectors so all children prenatal to age eight are safe, healthy and develop to their full potential in strong families and supportive communities. The plan was informed by parents, early childhood educators and family support workers during Prekindergarten engagement meetings led by Legislative Secretary Russ Marchuk in fall 2014. *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan* is a response to key

actions under the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*, as well as the provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Saskatchewan Disability Strategy and the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan.

The Provincial Leadership Team (PLT), comprised of directors of education from the 28 school divisions, First Nations and Métis educational organization representatives, and the Deputy and Assistant Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Education, continues to guide the sector planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting processes.

During the planning process, the PLT identified the following three areas in which it would like to see a breakthrough in improvement in 2016-17:

- Identify and implement high impact strategies for supporting student engagement, retention and graduation (Student Engagement and Retention Strategies);
- Implement the Following Their Voices initiative in partnership with First Nations and Métis stakeholders. Following Their Voices is a collaborative initiative designed to help teachers build better relationships with students and enhance First Nations and Métis student engagement and achievement; and,
- Develop a business case to explore the feasibility of a provincial Unified Student Information System.

The successful implementation of these initiatives is expected to affect the long-term outcomes identified during the planning process.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | Meeting the challenges of growth | **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people** | Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, children aged 0-6 will be supported in their development to ensure that 90 per cent of students exiting Kindergarten are ready for learning in the primary grades.

Strategies

Launch *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016-2020* that provides goals and strategic outcomes in the following areas: healthy beginnings, early learning, child care, strong families and healthy children, and community planning and alignment.

By December 2020, work with human services ministries, school divisions and early years stakeholders in the community to implement and evaluate Saskatchewan's 2016-2020 intersectoral early years plan.

Key Actions

- Support play-based, developmentally and culturally appropriate approaches.
- Adopt an innovative approach to child care in joint-use schools and make them part of the school community.
- Provide information to families about the importance of the early years and early learning programs in support of a plan to provide access to high quality early learning environments.
- Participate in the federal-provincial-territorial governments' creation of a national Early Learning and Child Care framework.
- Create options for effective family engagement practices in the early years.

Performance Measure

Early Years Evaluation

Number of children whose learning and development is typical for children of the same age in Kindergarten according to the Early Years Evaluation.

Government Goals

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Reduce the Grade 12 graduation disparity between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis students in the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 system by 50 per cent by 2020.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, collaboration between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis partners will result in significant improvement in First Nations and Métis student engagement and will increase the three-year graduation rate from 35 per cent in June 2012 to at least 65 per cent.

Strategies

Achieve an annual increase of four percentage points in the First Nations and Métis three-year graduation rate.

By 2018, school divisions will achieve parity between First Nations and Métis students and non-First Nations and Métis students on the OurSCHOOL/Tell Them From Me engagement measures.

Key Actions

- In partnership with First Nations and Métis stakeholders, implement the Following Their Voices initiatives.
  - Implement, monitor and support Phase One of the Following Their Voices professional development initiative.
  - Deliver professional learning and development to participating schools.
  - Conduct research on implementation of the Following Their Voices initiative.
  - Create a sector action committee to identify structures and practices to overcome racism and build relationships, understanding and trust between First Nations and Métis and non-indigenous peoples.
  - Facilitate transition plans for students moving through and among systems including mechanisms for sharing information.
  - Plan and deliver one Elders' gathering.
  - Develop and implement First Nations and Métis Elders, Traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders' Helpers policy.

Performance Measures

Proportion of Secondary Students Attaining More Than Four or Exceeding Eight Credits Per Year

Proportion of secondary level self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) students in all schools, attaining more than four or exceeding eight credits per year.

First Nations and Métis Three-Year Graduation Rate

On-time, extended time and eventual graduation rates of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students completing Grade 12.

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Ensure Saskatchewan leads the country in graduation rates.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, Saskatchewan will achieve an 85 per cent three-year graduation rate.

Strategies

Achieve an annual increase of three percentage points in the provincial three-year graduation rate.

By June 2018, 77 per cent of students participating in the OurSCHOOL/Tell Them From Me survey will report that they are actively engaged in their learning and have a positive sense of belonging in their school community.

Key Actions

- Identify and implement high impact strategies for supporting student engagement, retention and graduation (Student Engagement and Retention Strategies).
  - Develop province-wide opportunities to share leading practices in improving graduation rates and transitions.
  - Develop a strategy for all Grade 9 students to have a graduation and post-graduation plan, and establish a process for maintaining those plans through Grade 12.
  - Develop a plan to improve school attendance.
  - Initiate a review of provincial high school graduation requirements.

Performance Measures

Provincial Three-Year Graduation Rate

On-time, extended time and eventual graduation rates of students completing Grade 12 disaggregated by all, non-FNMI and FNMI students.

On-time graduation rates – Saskatchewan, the provinces and territories.

Attendance

Percentage of students with at least 80 per cent attendance.

Government Goals

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*: Work to increase the number of Grade 3 students reading at grade level.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 2020, 80 per cent of students will be at grade level or above in reading, writing and math.

Strategies

By June 2018, at least 75 per cent of students will be at or above grade level in reading and writing.

By June 2019, at least 75 per cent of students will be at or above grade level in math.

Key Actions

- Implement a refined set of provincial high impact reading assessment, instruction and intervention strategies (*Saskatchewan Reads*).
  - Develop a commonly understood definition of what it means to be "at grade level" in reading and writing.
  - Engage in formal discussions with the University Advisory Panel to review current and future education needs in literacy and numeracy.
  - All school divisions/systems design and deploy a literacy program based on *Saskatchewan Reads* that is aligned with the *Education Sector Strategic Plan*.
  - Share writing tools which will assist teachers in determining what it means for students to be working at grade level in writing.
  - Identify instructional strategies and intervention resources for math.
  - Develop French Immersion and Francophone writing tools for grades 6-9 in collaboration with the sector.
  - Develop a business case to explore the value of a Unified Student Information System and data warehouse to track student achievement.
  - Adapt and translate the Saskatchewan Citizenship Education teaching resource for grade K-12 for French-language teachers.
  - Adapt and translate the Help Me Talk About Math assessment tool for French-language students and teachers.

Performance Measures

Percentage of Students Reading at Grade Level

Percentage of grade 1-3 students reading at grade level.

Percentage of grade 1-3 students reading one level below grade level.

Percentage of grade 1-3 students reading more than one level below grade level.

Percentage of grade 2-3 students reading more than one year below grade level.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Government of Saskatchewan will invest in the infrastructure needed to support education and quality of life priorities. Similarly, school boards must ensure their infrastructure planning aligns with the growth needs and priorities of the communities they serve.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By September 2017, nine new joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville will be complete and ready for use. Each school will include a child care centre with space for 90 children (810 child care spaces in total) and space for community use.

Ministry Key Actions

- Invest $391.4 million in school capital funding to:
  - complete previously approved projects still in progress;
  - provide funding for the Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Program;
  - $16.6 million provided from 2015-16 budget to fund the 2016-17 Relocatable program to build 46 new classrooms and move 9 for students starting in September 2016;
  - address emergent infrastructure concerns;
  - provide additional space for child care; and
  - continue work towards the construction of nine new joint-use elementary schools in the province.
- Continue work with SaskBuilds to develop a long-term capital strategy.

Performance Measure

Joint-Use Schools Project Progress

In March of 2017, construction of the nine joint-use schools will be on target for completion in the summer of 2017.

Government Goals

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Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By August 31, 2020, implement a sector-wide approach to find efficiencies and increase value add in order for the sector to be responsive to the challenges of student needs.

Strategy

By August 31, 2017, accumulated sector savings will be achieved through provincially coordinated initiatives.

Performance Measure

Provincial Summary of Accumulated Savings

Ministry, in partnership with the sector, will report on any accumulated savings.

Government Goals

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Ministry Key Actions

- Support school divisions in embedding continuous improvement processes to improve student learning environments.
- Develop a Northern Education Action Plan.
  - Collaborate with the La Loche community, human services and other partners, to develop an Action Plan for La Loche and community that supports student success and includes short-, medium- and long-term actions.
  - Collaborate with the Infrastructure, Housing and Health subcommittees for the purpose of coordinating a one plan approach and developing a broader Northern Action Plan.
  - Prioritize and implement short-term actions.
- Continue implementation of formula changes identified in the 2015-16 review of the funding distribution model. Continue to work with school divisions and sector partners to review and refine the funding distribution model where required.

Government Goals

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Ministry Key Actions

- Continue to work with school divisions to address recommendations in Volume 2 of the Provincial Auditor's 2012 Report regarding transporting students safely.
- Continue to implement recommendations from the Action Plan to Address Bullying and Cyber-Bullying.
- Renew the Caring and Respectful Schools policy to support greater consistency across the education sector to prevent and respond to bullying and threats of violence; encourage restorative approaches; and foster positive relationships that are based on respect and acceptance of diversity of all students in Saskatchewan schools.
- Continue to support the Invitational Shared Services Initiative to provide supports to students living on-reserve and to teachers, as part of government's response to the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People.
- Work with First Nations partners to analyze how the provincial funding formula could be used by the federal government to fund future First Nations education authorities.
- Engage with First Nations, Métis and provincial stakeholders in renewing *Inspiring Success: Building Towards Student Achievement: First Nations and Métis Education Policy Framework*.
- Work with First Nations, Métis and provincial education partners to develop a document that will guide data-related practices, protocols and agreements.
- Support First Nations and Métis learners province-wide through expanded library and literacy supports.

- Work with funded literacy organizations to establish Aboriginal engagement plans.
- Provide targeted funding to boards of education in response to the arrival of Syrian families.
- Begin work to enhance support for family engagement in education and literacy by compiling current family engagement strategies.
- Continue to provide supports for gender and sexual diversity.
- Work with sector and interministry partners to support the:
  - Poverty Reduction Strategy;
  - Disability Strategy; and,
  - Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan.

Highlights

The following are key investments from the Ministry of Education's 2016-17 Budget:

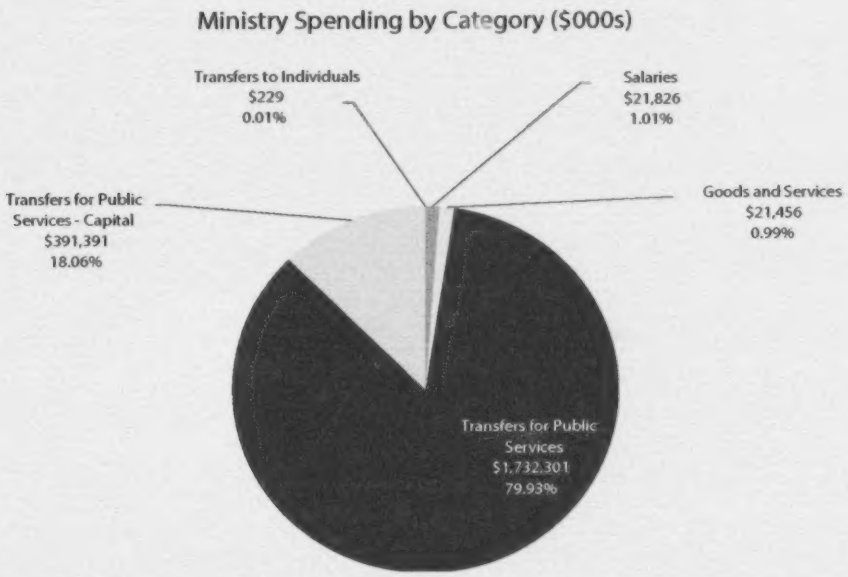
- Overall Education funding has increased by $157.4 million, or 7.8 per cent, from 2015-16 for a total of $2.2 billion;
- School operating funding for 2016-17, including revenue collected from the education property tax, will be $1.9 billion, up $16.6 million or 0.9 per cent over 2015-16;
- $391.4 million for capital investments, including:
  - $310.5 million - a $153.1 million increase - for the 18 joint-use schools being built on 9 sites;
  - $33.4 million - a $6.4 million increase - for preventative maintenance and renewal;
  - $4.6 million for emergency building repairs;
  - $41.9 million to advance major capital projects; and
  - $1 million for school facility assessments.
- $5.1 million in ongoing funding in response to Joint Task Force for the following initiatives:
  - $2.4 million to continue the Invitational Shared Services Initiative;
  - $1.6 million for further development of Following their Voices (First Nations and Métis Student Achievement Initiative);
  - $1 million for the expansion of the Help Me Tell My Story and Help Me Talk About Math; and
  - $100,000 for Microsoft Software Licensing for on-reserve schools;
- An increase of $4 million for classroom supports for the government fiscal year;
  - Providing school divisions with $288 million for the supports for learning for the 2016-17 school year;
- $5.4 million of school operating funding is being targeted for supports for Syrian refugee students;
- $5.8 million, a $600,000 increase, to address salary and enrolment pressures at Youth at High Risk facilities.

Financial Summary

2016-17 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	15,133
K-12 Education	1,663,945
Early Years	76,854
Literacy	1,958
Provincial Library	12,768
Appropriation	**1,770,658**
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	548
Expense	**1,771,206**
Teachers' Pension and Benefits	396,545
Total Expense	**2,167,751**
Total Appropriation	**2,167,203**

FTE Staff Complement	283.5

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education